

*This information is provided as a resource by Saskatchewan Agriculture staff.  
All stated cattle prices are based on the weekly Canfax Market Outlook and Summary.  
Please use this information at your own risk.*

## Cattle Market Update

### For the Week Ending March 21, 2014

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight (\$/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

#### ***Feeder Cattle***

##### **Steers**

	Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	196-220	210.90	+6.02
400-500	202-230	215.10	+2.90
500-600	197-221	207.56	-0.57
600-700	185-209	193.50	+3.40
700-800	167-190	178.10	+3.20
800-900	157-174	165.75	+4.85
900+	146-161	151.17	-1.83

##### **Heifers**

	Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	181-210	196.00	+4.50
400-500	180-208	192.75	+3.50
500-600	177-204	186.75	+1.25
600-700	166-190	177.70	+4.20
700-800	156-174	163.90	+3.27
800+	144-159	151.40	-0.48

Source: Canfax.

Note: Prices are determined from Saskatchewan auction marts' reports of sale results from Thursday of the previous week to Thursday of the current week.

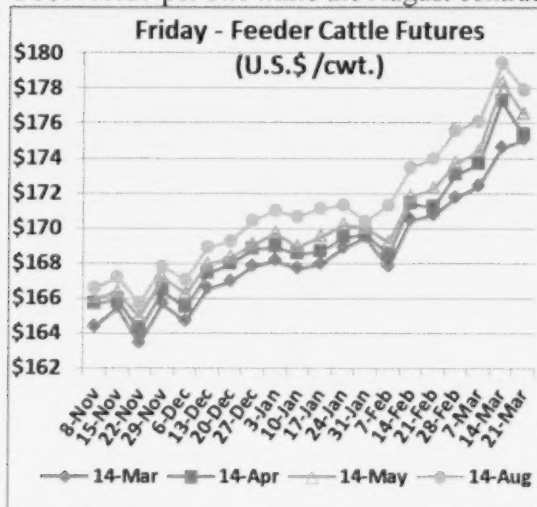
Canfax reported that a total of 17,101 head of cattle were sold in Saskatchewan this week, up from 15,127 head marketed the previous week.

Saskatchewan feeder steer prices were mixed over the week but mostly higher setting new records in many categories. Feeder steer prices ranged from \$1.83 per cwt lower to \$6.02 per cwt higher, from the previous week. The biggest gains were in the 300-400 lb. weight category which increased by \$6.02 per cwt. The largest losses were in the 900 +lb. weight category which lost \$1.83 per cwt. New record high prices for Saskatchewan feeder steers were set in all the weight categories except the 500-600 lb. and 900 +lb. weight categories, where prices were lower.

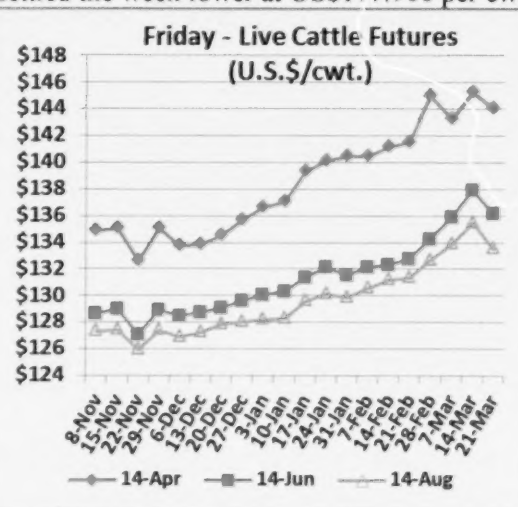
Feeder heifer prices were higher over the week except the 900 +lb. weight category which had small losses. Feeder heifer prices ranged from \$0.48 per cwt lower to \$4.50 per cwt higher, from the previous week. The 300-400 lb. weight category had the largest gain over the week increasing \$4.50 per cwt. There were new record high prices set for all Saskatchewan feeder heifer weight categories except the 900 +lb. weight category, which had price declines.

The Saskatchewan 750 lb. feeder steer basis compared to the March 20, 2014 U.S. feeder cattle index at US\$173.93 per cwt was calculated at -\$16.87 per cwt (US\$173.93/0.8921 - \$178.10 ), a basis narrowing of \$1.15 per cwt from -\$18.02 per cwt on March 13, 2014.

Feeder cattle futures prices were mostly lower over the week except the nearby March contract which edged up slightly. The March to August 2014 contracts ranged from US\$1.950 per cwt lower to US\$0.425 per cwt higher, week-over-week. The March contract settled the week at US\$175.025 per cwt while the August contract settled the week lower at US\$177.900 per cwt.



Source: CME



Source: CME

Live cattle futures prices were lower over the week. The April to August 2014 contracts ranged from US\$1.250 per cwt to US\$1.975 per cwt lower over the week. The nearby April contract settled the week at US\$144.00 per cwt while the August contract decreased US\$1.975 per cwt to settle Friday at US\$133.50 per cwt. Both feeder and live cattle futures prices were significantly lower on Thursday, likely in anticipation of Friday's USDA Cattle on Feed Report for March.

Iowa cash corn prices and the nearby corn futures were lower over the week. The Iowa cash price on Friday was US\$4.50 per bushel, down 7 cents from US\$4.57 per bushel the previous Friday. The May corn futures contract was down 7 cents to settle Friday at US\$4.79 per bushel.

### ***Fed and Non-fed Cattle***

	March 21	March 14	Change
<b>Cows (Alberta)</b>			
D1,2 Live	99.60	99.40	+0.20
D3 Live	87.00	87.00	+0.00
Rail	195-200	195-200	+0.00

Source: Canfax.

Prices for liveweight, non-fed cattle in Alberta were steady over the week with D1,2 slaughter cows increasing \$0.20 per cwt to average \$99.60 per cwt while the price of D3 slaughter cows was unchanged to average \$87.00 per cwt.

Fed cattle prices in Western Canada were higher over the week. Fed steer prices in Alberta were reported at \$141.81 per cwt, up \$3.85 per cwt from \$137.96 per cwt the previous week.

The live (FOB feedlot) weighted average 5-area (Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa/Minnesota) weekly fed steer price in the U.S. was reported at a US\$150.87 per cwt, up US\$0.92 per cwt from US\$149.95 per cwt the previous week, and up 20.9 per cent from US\$124.78 per cwt the same week a year ago. The dressed (delivered basis) price for U.S. steers delivered to plants in the 5-area was reported at US\$241.44 per cwt, up US\$1.22 per cwt from US\$240.22 per cwt the previous week, but up 22.1 per cent from US\$197.77 per cwt the same week a year ago.

Choice beef cutout prices (600-900 lb.) averaged a new record high price of US\$242.41 per cwt, up US\$1.69 per cwt from US\$240.72 per cwt the previous week, and up 25.2 per cent from US\$193.57 per cwt the same week a year ago. Beef production for the week averaged 458.3 million lb., up 1.8 per cent from 450.1 million lb. the previous week, but down 4.1 per cent from 478.1 million lb. the same week a year ago.

USDA released the latest U.S. cold storage numbers on Friday. Beef stocks in cold storage totaled 407.1 million lb. on February 28, 2014, down 5.2 per cent from 429.3 million lb. on January 31, 2014, and down 16.9 per cent from February 2013.

On Friday February 21, 2014, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the monthly *Cattle on Feed Report* for March 1, 2014.

March 1, 2013 and 2014, Cattle on Feed (in U.S. feedlots with 1,000+ capacity)			
	2013	2014	Per cent of previous year
On feed February 1	11,070,000	10,760,000	96.7
Placed during February	1,438,000	1,650,000	114.7
Marketed during February	1,603,000	1,549,000	96.6
Other disappearance during February	60,000	71,000	118.3
On feed March 1	10,845,000	10,790,000	99.5

Source: USDA

The USDA Cattle on Feed (COF) report indicated that the number of cattle placed on feed in February 2014 was 1.650 million head, up 14.7 per cent from February 2013, but down 18.7 per cent from 2.029 million head in January 2014. Continued higher cattle placements the last few months could result in higher summer fed cattle supplies. The number of fed cattle marketed in February 2014 was 1.549 million head, down 3.4 per cent from 1.603 million head in February 2013, and down 13.4 per cent from 1.788 million head marketed in January 2014. The February cattle placements were almost five per cent higher than the average trade estimates (109.1) while the cattle marketed in February were less than one per cent below the average trade estimates (97.1). The cattle on feed for March 1, 2014 were estimated at 10.790 million head, less than one per cent below the March 2013 inventory numbers, but 0.3 per cent above the February 2014 numbers. While year-over-year cattle on feed numbers have declined for 19 consecutive months, this was the smallest annual decline. The March 1 cattle on feed numbers were under one per cent higher than the average trade estimates (98.8). The cattle on feed report had higher February placements and cattle on feed as of March 1, compared to the average trade estimates, and could be viewed a little bearish.

## Friday Price Information

Product	This Week (March 21)	Week of: (March 14)
<b>Canadian Dollar</b> (closing rate US\$)	.8921	.9013
<b>U.S. Cash Cattle</b>		
Thurs. Feeder Cattle (FC) Index (US\$ per cwt)	173.93	173.88
Seven-day Weighted Average FC Index Wt. (lb.)	767	760
Live Fed 5-area Steer Price (US\$ per cwt)	149.95	149.95
<b>Feed Grains</b>		
<b>Barley</b> Lethbridge (\$/tonne)	184.00	180.00
(\$ per bu.)	4.01	3.92
<b>Corn</b> Iowa State Average (CDN\$/tonne)*	198.58	199.61
(US\$ per bu.)	4.50	4.57
Omaha, NE (CDN\$/tonne)*	192.85	200.05
(US\$ per bu.)	4.37	4.58
<b>Futures</b>		
May Corn (US\$ per bu.)	4.79	4.86
July Corn (US\$ per bu.)	4.83¾	4.90½
April Live Cattle (US\$ per cwt)	144.000	145.250
June Live Cattle (US\$ per cwt)	136.125	137.850
March Feeder Cattle (US\$ per cwt)	175.025	174.600
May Feeder Cattle (US\$ per cwt)	176.500	178.300

Sources: Bank of Canada, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), ICE Futures Canada and USDA Livestock & Grain Market News

\* conversion to CDN\$ is based on Friday's CDN\$ closing rate

Note: Cow-calf producers in Saskatchewan are reminded to check with their local market operators regarding current market conditions for non-fed cattle. Producers are also reminded that old, thin cows have a very low market value. The non-fed prices quoted each week do not represent the market price for these animals. As an alternative to transporting these animals, you may want to check with your local veterinarian or the nearest Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) office to see if these animals are eligible for testing as part of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance program. Producers receive \$75 from the CFIA for each eligible sample submitted. The goal of this program is to prove that the BSE control measures implemented in Canada are working.

For more information contact:

**Brad Marceniuk, PAg**  
**Livestock Economist**  
**306-933-5098**  
[brad.marceniuk@gov.sk.ca](mailto:brad.marceniuk@gov.sk.ca)